The Field Museum

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
August 17, 2001

Fortunate 500

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photo by John Weinstein

Thanks to your participation in the *Natural News* / Recycling survey, we are pleased to announce that 500 copies of the *Natural News* will be spared the printing press starting this week! Many of you responded that you would rather read the Natural News Online or that you would prefer a reduced number of copies that you could place in common areas or binders for those without computer access. In light of this accomplishment, I thought I would have a bit of fun with the calculator on my desktop. Considering that an average printed issue of the Natural News runs five pages long, one easily arrives at that fact that by printing 500 fewer copies, we will save 2,500 sheets of paper every week. Multiply this by the 52 weeks that make up a year and one discovers that we will save about 130,000 sheets of paper annually.

Now, there are 500 sheets of paper in a ream, so my calculator tells me that we'd save 260 reams of paper each year. If one were to stack these two-inch-thick reams one on top of another, they would tower to a height of over 43 feet. Think about it; a stack of paper 8 ½ by 11

(Continued on Following Page)

FIELD NOTES

August 17-August 24

Staff/Volunteer Events

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor

Tae Bo Class
- Monday, 5 p.m. Ground Floor

Green Sheet Meeting
- Wednesday, 3 p.m. FP&O Conference Room.

Public/Campus Events

***Chicago: A New Canvas*, Light and Sound Show. Thursday through Saturday through September 1**

© Courtesy Steve LaMonica, Calumet/Chicago

Continuing Exhibitions:

- **In Her Hands**
- **Insects**
- **Living Colors**
- **Julie Taymor**

The Natural News *is published by the Human Resources Department.*

Submissions can be emailed to Mark Schmeltzer (mschmeltzer@fmnh.org) Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to the Office of Institutional Advancement. ***The deadline for next week's issue is WEDNESDAY, August 29 at NOON.***

(Continued from front page)

inches wide and equaling the height of a smallish tree. You would have to stack about seven average-sized Field Museum employees and a small child to reach this height.

But there's more. In only 33 years, the paper saved could be stacked to reach the rooftop of the Sears Tower (see middle of photo to get a general idea how tall that is). Now, having yet to eclipse 33 years myself, I tend not to think of it as that long a time, especially considering a) that The Field Museum has been around for 108 years and b) the life-spans of most trees. For example, a Western Red Cedar in our *Plants of the World* exhibition is 200 years old while the Western U.S. has examples of Bristlecone Pines that are over 4,000 years old! What I do know is that a stack of paper reaching the rooftop of the Sears Tower is a *heck* of a lot of paper!

So thanks and congratulations on helping the Museum reach such great heights by choosing *Natural News Online* and shared department copies to provide your weekly news. I would also like to thank **Mary Anne Rogers** (Zoology, Fishes) and the members of the Recycling Committee who helped prepare and conduct the survey. My thanks also to **Ed Czerwin** in the Print Shop. And lastly, but not leastly, my thanks to **Peter Lang**, (Web Publishing) for building the Web site and putting the text on it every week. You are truly a Webmaster among Webmen.

Mark Schmeltzer,
Editor

Zoology Classroom Renovations

The Zoology Classroom on the third floor is undergoing renovations and is currently unavailable for meetings or seminars. Work is scheduled to be completed by October 1.

Some of the renovations include improved lighting and sound equipment and installation of a projection booth for audio-visual equipment.

Questions? Contact **Mary Johnson** in Zoology at extension 7721 or at <mjohnson@fieldmuseum.org>.

Mary Johnson,
Zoology

West Door Card Readers

With the start of the west lot construction project, it's been necessary to relocate the in and out card readers at the west doors. Due to the long awaited construction project now underway in the parking lot, the southernmost door (closest to the guard house) will no longer be accessible. The old out reader will remain on the wall where it is with a sign over it reminding you to use the newly installed reader at the far northern door (closest to Lecture Hall 1) when you exit. Just on the other side of this door will be the in reader. The center handicap door will remain unaffected by this change.

The DPS verification podium at the west entrance has been moved closer to the Guest Relations desk to accommodate the card reader switch. Its new location will give the security officer at the west door a better vantage point to observe the ingress and egress of visitors and staff.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at extension 7966. Thank you.

Fred Cowan,
Protection Services

Deadline for Nominations is Near!!

The deadline for nominations to the Award of Excellence selection Committee is Tuesday, September 4th. Nominations will not be accepted after this date. The Committee has been impressed with the quality of nominations received thus far. We know that there are many more stars out there and we are hoping to see those names added to our already impressive list. Award recipients will be announced at the Employee Recognition Ceremony to be held November 1, 2001. If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at ext. 7271.

Shawn VanDerziel, HR

Natural Use

500!

That's the number by which *Natural News* will cut its weekly print run following a successful survey of departments around the Museum. A large number responded that they would utilize the new Natural News Online edition and shared departmental copies. To ensure that all staff and volunteers have access to the Natural News, please make copies available in shared spaces if you responded that you would do so in your department's survey. In order to make sure that everyone who requested paper copies receives them we will be tweaking the *Natural News* distribution process over the next few weeks. Your feedback is critical once again. Should you receive too few or too many copies in your department's mailbox, or have any other questions please contact **Mark Schmeltzer** in Institutional Advancement at ext. 7123 or mschmeltzer@fieldmuseum.org.

We Recycle

Harriett Sculfield from Housekeeping shared the following 1st-2nd Quarter Recycling Report:

1st-2nd QUARTER REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT 2001

RESOURCES RECYCLED:
MIXED PAPER = 38.53 TONS
CARDBOARD = 29.99 TONS

CUMULATIVE TOTALS
(since program start date: 10/18/89):
MIXED PAPER = 262.76 TONS
CARDBOARD = 233.40 TONS

WORLD RESOURCES CONSERVED
(for cumulative paper/OCC recycled):
8,435 TREES
3,473,120 GALLONS OF WATER
2,034,256 KILOWATTS OF ELECTRICITY
44,208 CUBIC FEET OF LANDFILL SPACE
29,770 POUNDS OF POLLUTANTS KEPT OUT OF THE ATMOSPHERE

COMMENTS/ANALYSIS:
The Field Museum has stepped-up its recycling efforts and is consistently generating a higher volume of paper and cardboard. We believe this is due to improved participation rates (another five totes were recently provided for paper collection for the purpose of program expansion and cardboard recycling has increased). Quality of material/volume continues to be excellent.

PHONE FACTS

Please establish your extended absence greeting before you go on vacation.

- From the Main Menu,
- **PRESS 4** for Personal Options
- **PRESS 3** for Greetings
- **PRESS 2** for Extended Absence Greeting
- You will be prompted to record a new greeting at the tone.
- When you are finished recording, **PRESS (#) KEY.**
- To hear your newly recorded greeting, **PRESS 1**
- **OR,** to erase and re-record your greeting, **PRESS (*) KEY.**
- **OR,** to accept the newly recorded greeting, **PRESS (#) KEY.**
- As long as your Extended Absence Greeting is in place, each time you long into your mailbox you will be prompted, "You currently have an extended absence greeting. To retain your extended absence greeting **PRESS 1,** to delete it **PRESS 2,** to listen to your greeting, **PRESS 0."**

REMEMBER – If you choose to delete your Extended Absence Greeting, your last recorded Personal Greeting will be reinstated.

If you want to listen to your messages while on vacation or away from the office, please remember to:

1. **DIAL 312-665-7055** and wait for system to answer.
2. During the greeting, **PRESS (#) KEY**.
3. You will be prompted to enter your **MAILBOX NUMBER** and **PASSWORD**.

If you need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Anita Purnell by phone at ext. 8110, or by e-mail at apurnell@fieldmuseum.org

Anita Purnell,
Telephone Administrator

NEWS FROM MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO

The 2001 Mrs. T.'s Chicago Triathlon is scheduled for Sunday, 8/26. The run portion of the triathlon will use the lakefront path closest to the Shedd Aquarium as well as the Solidarity Drive eastbound and westbound sidewalks. The runners are scheduled to cross Solidarity Drive northbound between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. as they head towards the finish line—this will impact traffic flow on eastbound and westbound Solidarity Drive.

Please note the following planned street closures, as of Tuesday, 8/14:

- Eastbound middle Randolph from Columbus to the lake will be closed from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 8/26;

- Northbound exit ramp from Lake Shore Drive to middle Randolph will be closed from 3 p.m. on 8/25 to 4 p.m. on 8/26;

• Northbound and southbound inner two lanes of Lake Shore Drive will be closed from Randolph to Foster from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 8/26;

• Middle Lake Shore Drive from Grand to Monroe will be closed from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 8/26;

• Eastbound middle Wacker from Columbus to Lake Shore Drive will be closed from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. on 8/26;

• Columbus from Balbo to Roosevelt will be closed from 11 p.m. on 8/25 to 5 p.m. on 8/26.

Other events scheduled for Sunday, 8/26 include the all-day *Viva!* Chicago Festival in Grant Park, a convention at McCormick Place, a Cubs game at 1:20 p.m. and the Erykah Badu concert at Arie Crown—all of which will impact traffic flow on Lake Shore Drive.

If you have any questions, please call the Museum Campus office at 312/665-7422.

Christina Breslow,
Museum Campus

Discounted Theater Tickets for Museum Campus Employees

My name in Chuck Karvelas. You probably know me as "Mickey," the goofy environmental ignoramus in the new dolphin presentation at the Shedd. Outside of the aquarium I have a theatre company called Speaking Ring Theatre, a theatre company dedicated to inspiring community interaction through ensemble based performance.

The first show we are producing (which I am featured in) is *The Woolgatherer*, a dark comedy that shows how our lives mirror the lives of animals. It shows how our instincts for survival are still very strong. It runs Wednesday at 8 p.m., Friday at 10 p.m., and Alternate Sunday at 3 p.m.

The second show deals with an entirely different subject. *Oscar Remembered* is a show about the great writer and wit Oscar Wilde told through the eyes of the man blamed for his downfall. In a time when the world denied their love these men found happiness together and then it all fell apart. It runs Thursday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 3 p.m., Alternate Sundays at 3 p.m.

I really wanted to share my work out of the aquarium with everyone in the aquarium and the rest of the museum campus. However, I know that we all work very hard and live on a tight budget so I worked it out with the theatre to get a discount for all museum campus employees. They have selected two performances that will be dubbed museum nights at the theatre. On the evenings of August 22nd and August 23rd anyone with a Shedd, Adler, or Field ID will receive a $5 discount on tickets to the shows. If you would like to see either of the shows please come to the theatre building 1225 W. Belmont, Chicago the night of the show with your Shedd, Adler or Field ID and receive your discount. No reservations are necessary. If you would like to see the shows on another night the info for getting tickets is below.

August 15th through September 16th at the Theatre Building 1225 W. Belmont, Chicago. For tickets and info call the box office at (773) 327-5252 or Ticketmaster.

Chuck Karvelas,
John G. Shedd Aquarium

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

New book on evolution from Geology's Lidgard

The University of Chicago press has just released "Evolutionary Patterns: Growth, Form, and Tempo in the Fossil Record," edited by Associate Curator **Scott Lidgard** (Geology) and colleagues Jeremy B. C. Jackson (University of Chicago), and Frank K. McKinney (Appalachian State University). The volume demonstrates the rich variety of clues to evolution that can be gleaned from the fossil record. Chief among these are the major trends and anomalies in species development revealed only by "deep time," such as periodic mass extinctions and species that remain unchanged in form for millions of years. Contributors explore modes of development, the tempo of speciation and extinction, and macroevolutionary patterns and trends. The result is an important contribution to paleobiology and evolutionary biology, and a spirited defense of the fossil record as a crucial tool for understanding evolution and development.

Unique fossil monitor lizard part of acquisition

Returning from summer fieldwork in Wyoming, Curator **Lance Grande** (Geology) brought back another portion of the Hebdon collection of fossil vertebrates from the Eocene of Wyoming (named for collector Rick Hebdon), which the Museum recently purchased. This collection comprises a unique collection of fossil birds, but also includes a lesser number of exceptionally well preserved fossil mammals, turtles and lizards—including a beautifully preserved, complete skeleton of a fossil monitor lizard of the genus *Saniwa*. It is the only as well preserved and complete specimen of this genus in a public repository, and is absolutely unique for its kind in that in preserves cartilaginous parts of its skeleton, mainly in the shoulder girdle, a very rare occurrence. (A second specimen is in a private collection, hence not appropriate for scientific description, but it does indicate that we are dealing with a new species.)

A complete specimen of *Saniwa* is of major scientific importance, because it will provide greater insight into the phylogenetic relationships of the monitor lizards in general, a group with an otherwise large fossil record and a cosmopolitan distribution. The Field Museum specimen at the will throw new light on the evolutionary and biogeographical history of that lizard lineage.

Norton in Ethnographic Paint Conference

Ruth Norton, Chief Conservator, Anthropology, participated in the conference on Ethnographic Paint held by the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, and attended the annual general meeting of the UKIC Ethnographic Materials Section, 16-19 July. She presented a paper on the conservation of a haus tambaran, a men's ceremonial house of the Abelam in the Sepik area of Papua New Guinea. Other topics presented included: Ethnography of traditional painting techniques in Papua New Guinea, implications for conservation; Conservation of Australian Aboriginal bark paintings; Structural implications of East Tibetan tangka production; Ancient Egyptian painted surfaces; Conservation of archaeological painted wood in the Museum of the Islamic Art, Cairo. Participants did not insult their hosts in Lincoln, UK, by refusing participation in the canal boat tour of that Ancient Roman waterway. That it happened to begin, turnaround and finish in pubs was incidental.

Baker's Corner

By Paul Baker

The Insects Division delights in telling us that we are never more than three feet from a spider. A disturbing suggestion for me but a novel inspiration to others viewing our spider exhibition of a few years ago. So, I wondered, how far away are we in daily life from a cup of coffee.

Coffee has been the new rage for several years now—the sturdy tan ceramic diner mug having been replaced by the trendy travel mug or logo-enhanced take-out cup. Cellular phones aside, no other object is seen as frequently in the mitts of worker bees scurrying to and from the job.

How did this all get started? Since coffee has been around for so long—some say over a thousand years—I wasn't surprised to find that the origin of its discovery is credited to the Middle East and, like many other stories, involves goatherds. The most popular story concerns the shepherd, Kladi, around 575 AD. He wondered why his goats were so restless and would not sleep well at night. It wasn't hard to follow the animals as they grazed and Kladi scooped up some wild berries the goats had been eating. Kladi ate some himself and felt invigorated. He then showed them to his local holy man who, fearing the devil's influence, flung them in the fire, the beans heated and emitted a pleasant aroma, the attendant monks raked them from the fire, cooled them in some water and sampled the darkened water. You know the rest. Believing this transformation to be a sign from God, the abbot gave the OK for everyone to partake of the fluid and soon document production and garden harvesting was way up.

Long before the lines formed to get a $3.75 mocha-chino, Africans were grinding the beans raw, mixing them with fat and eating the mixture. On the Arabian peninsula locals would use the raw husks and the seeds to make a kind of tea. There were lots of medicinal uses for the beans, too, and, finally, the Arabs boiled water with the dried beans to make a popular hot drink.

It took until the 1600s for Western cultures to warm up to the potion. This is partly due to the fact that change comes slowly to most of us and the fact that, as with anything of trading or monetary potential, the cultivation and processing were closely guarded secrets for 400 years. The Turks were instrumental in introducing it to the West. By the 1700s the world-traveling Dutch (great stories of intrigue here) established plantations in Java, Guatemala and Costa Rica. Kenya, one of the most prolific producers of fine coffees, had to wait until 1878 for British colonists to introduce it there.

Having a place to go where someone else makes the coffee and you sit around and discuss or read is not new. Establishments sprang up everywhere to service the public thirst. Unfortunately, in some cultures, coffee houses were seen as potential threats to the status quo for the simple reason that they provided a forum for people of all walks of life to get together and start talking. Open discussion about religion and/or politics was not necessarily approved of by the powers that be. Coffee drinking was often seen as the real culprit behind associated vices such as gambling and dancing girls. Horrors!

Coffee was not without its supporters, however. "Why, this Satan's drink is so delicious that it would be a pity to let the infidels have exclusive use of it. We shall cheat Satan by baptizing it," said Pope Clement VIII. In 1688 the Dutch physician Cornelius Bontekoe had this to say about the "disgusting Turkish habit:" "Although they are not Christians, and on occasion are of somewhat wild disposition, nevertheless in this...they can be said to be superior to the Christians who consume wine, beer and other cool drinks..., the general custom demonstrates furthermore that coffee is not unhealthy, and no unpleasant effects are experienced afterwards, as is the case when drinking wine or beer."

I'll tell you more about coffee after I finish my latté.

Sources:

Britannica Macropedia
Cheney, Ralph Holt, *Coffee,* monograph, 1925
Jacob, Aeinrich, Edward, *Coffee: The Epic of a Commodity*, 1935
Chevalier, Auguste, *Les Caféiers du globe*, 1929
Laroque, Jean de, *Voyage to Arabia*, 1713
Thorbes, Francis Beatty, *Coffee: From Plantation to Cup*, 1884
Walsh, Joseph, *Coffee: Its History, Classification and Description.*

BOOKWMN SPEAKS

By Paula Ramos

I have always admired John Adams for his pluck; "Thanks to God that he gave me stubbornness when I know I am right." My admiration for his wife, Abigail, is even greater, for her tenacity of spirit; "These are the times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the still calm of life, or the repose of a pacific station, that great characters are formed. The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties." Although many of their exchanges were lost due to the Revolutionary War disrupting deliveries, these two "Dear Friends" were fine and prolific writers. Letter writers, like John and Abigail, will live forever and they pave the way for the brilliant history books of today that recount past glories and long forgotten hardships.

John Adams by David McCullough is not a rehash of the *Adams Chronicles* that was published, in conjunction with the PBS series, in 1976, the year of The United States Bicentennial. This is a vibrant, historical narrative that redefines the story of one of America's Founding Fathers who was not always liked or even understood by his peers. If you have read Dumas Malone's six-volume set on Thomas Jefferson, in which the author deliberately makes no mention of Sally Hemmings, you are familiar with how a historian, with a bad case of hero worship, can damage the truth by withholding crucial information from the reader. Information that, although unflattering, is necessary to understand Jefferson and the complexities of his mind. Mr. McCullough has enough respect for Mr. Adams to not ruin this sweeping saga by inflicting undue reverence on a human being who was the intelligent, moody and often irascible political figure; following him from his days as a young lawyer to his death at his beloved Braintree. John Adams was a man, not a god; he exercised substantial influence on many aspects of our Federal Government and frequently used less than genteel tactics to win his point. Adams, like his fellow revolutionaries, was never certain of how the Revolution would turn out. This brought to the surface his strengths and his weaknesses. David McCullough is non judgmental but does not fail the reader; revealing all of the intrigues that often made men "loose their senses."

Mr. McCullough captures not only the nuances; the unending intricacies of politics and the delicate art of diplomacy but he offers up the enduring love story of John and Abigail. Thank goodness there was no phone system for the Adams' to use; for we readers would have been cheated out of some of the most romantic letters ever written. Passionate people, John and Abigail were separated for months, even years, at a time and yet they did not waiver in their spiritual love, or in their physical desire for one another. Abigail adored John and saw in him what no one else saw, a very sexy man and he believed her to be a living Venus.

This book never sags or drags; Mr. McCullough's gift for language is evident on every page. He shares this thought, "We call them Founding Fathers, in tribute, but tend to see them as distant and a bit unreal, like figures at a costume pageant. With change accelerating all around, more and more we need understanding and appreciation of those principles upon which the republic was founded. What were those 'self-evident' truths that so many risked all for, fought for, suffered and died for? Who were these people? I don't think we can ever know enough about them." This is a better read than *Founding Brothers; John Adams* will eventually be released in trade paper, if you can wait that long! Also by David McCullough, *Truman.*

"Great necessities call out great virtues"-Abigail Adams

Take time to write a letter to someone today and leave a part of your history for future generations!

Watch this space for a special edition book review by BOOKPREZ...coming soon!

2000 - 2001
Award of Excellence
Nomination

The Field Museum

Staff Member Being Nominated:

Name _____

Department _____

Reason for Nomination (use reverse side if necessary) :

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

When Did This Occur (actual or approximate):

_____

_____

Submitted By:

Name _____

Department _____

Telephone Extension _____

Signature _____ **Today's Date** _____

Return this form to the Human Resources Department anytime before September 1, 2001. If you have any questions, please call ext. 7271.

Light and Sound Show

This summer, The Field Museum and the Chicago Historical Society will present an outdoor sound and light show featuring the words, voices and images of famous Chicagoans, past and present, that celebrates

Chicago: A New Canvas.

Catch this **FREE** performance Thursday through Saturday at 9 pm on the north side of The Field Museum—Now through Sept. 1st

NOTE: events will not take place on Saturday, July 28, Friday, August10 and Saturday, August 11

The Field Museum